

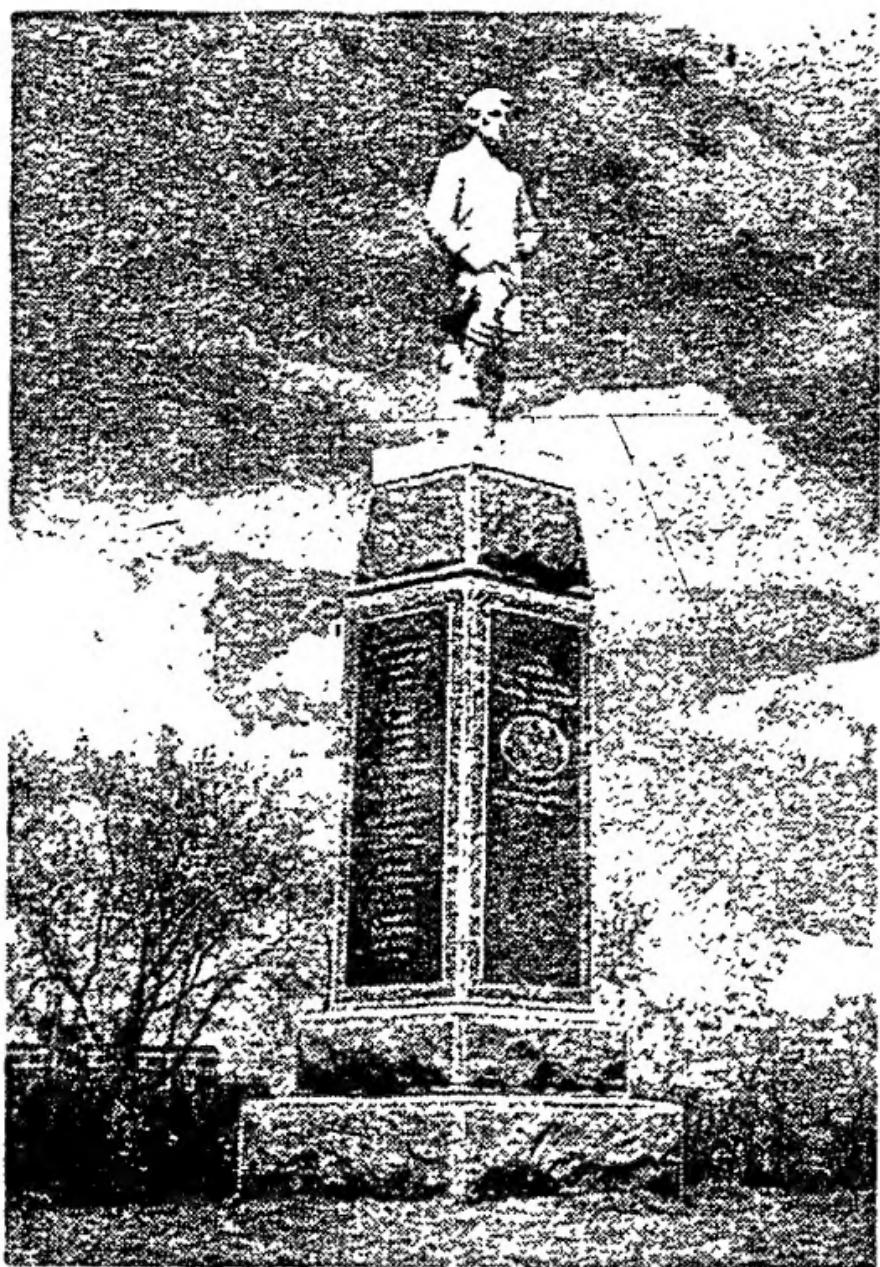
Next-of-Kin

Memorial Avenue

*Sponsored
by*

*The Military Chapter
I.O.D.E.*

Saskatoon, Sask.



Sergeant Hugh Cairns
Saskatoon's V.C.

1914-1918

Next-of-Kin

Memorial Avenue



Saskatoon, Sask.

Knighthood

IN HONOUR CHIVALROUS
IN DUTY VALOROUS
IN ALL THINGS NOBLE
TO THE HEARTS CORE CLEAN.

—*Canon Scott*

To the sacred memory of those citizens
who served in the armed forces and
rest from their labours this Next of Kin
Memorial Avenue is dedicated.

Memorial Avenue

OUR Memorial Avenue is unique in that it differs from memorials of marble, stone or bronze and also from other Memorial Avenues because it is an individual memorial, each tree being dedicated to the memory of one particular soldier.

The trees are the property of the next-of-kin or personal friends of the fallen. They have been individually selected and paid for by the next-of-kin or friends in token of their love and remembrance.

The Next-of-Kin Avenue was sponsored by the Military Chapter I.O.D.E. This was fitting as this Chapter was so named when organized because its special work was to co-operate with the local militia. Later when Women's Auxiliaries to the Canadian Legion were formed, the Active Service Committee of the Chapter turned to other interests.

The Inspiration

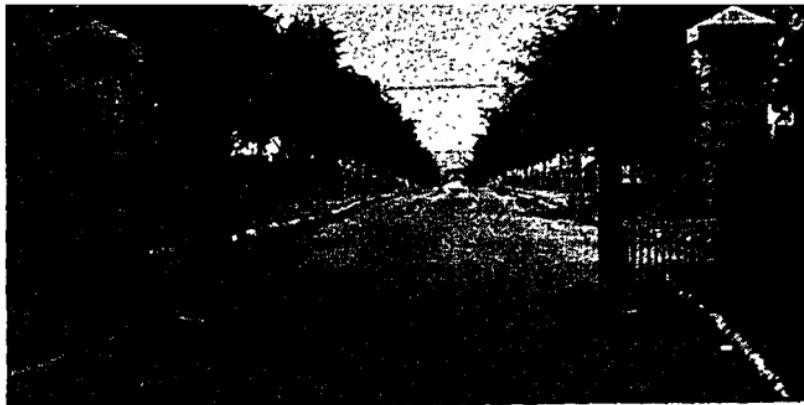
THE inspiration for the Memorial came from two members of this Committee, Mrs. A. H. Hanson and Mrs. J. W. A. Jarvis. The idea was enthusiastically taken up by the Chapter and Mrs. Hanson was appointed Convener of the Standing Committee to be known as "The Memorial Avenue Committee" with power to act for the Chapter.

The Avenue begins along a roadway that leads to Woodlawn Cemetery entrance and then to the Cairn and Soldiers Plot in the centre of the cemetery.

From the Cairn the Avenue branches out like the spokes of a wheel. The branch avenues again branch until there are now more than three miles of trees. The branches of the Avenue are named after distinguished soldiers, major battles, or ships. Some of the names are Kitchener, Currie, Vimy, Mons, Caen and Jervis Bay.

The Avenue is lined on both sides with elms. Around the base of each tree is an iron guard on which a brass plate is securely fastened. The plate bears the date 1914-1918 or 1939-1945, the name of the person being honoured, the unit with which he served, where he died and his age.

There is a register in the City Hall in Saskatoon where a copy of the inscription on every plate as well as other information is kept. It may be referred to by any person interested. There are over 800 pages now in this register. The Record and the Avenue will continue to grow as the years go by for this Avenue honours all soldiers who have served as well as those who died in action.



Decoration Sunday

EVERY year has its Decoration Sunday when the City Council, the Veterans, the Navy League and Daughters of the Empire honour the dead. On this occasion every tree has a flag fastened to the guard above the brass plate and a garland of flowers at the foot. New trees are dedicated every year and the dedication forms an important part of the ceremony. Up to 1951 the number of trees which had been dedicated was 779.

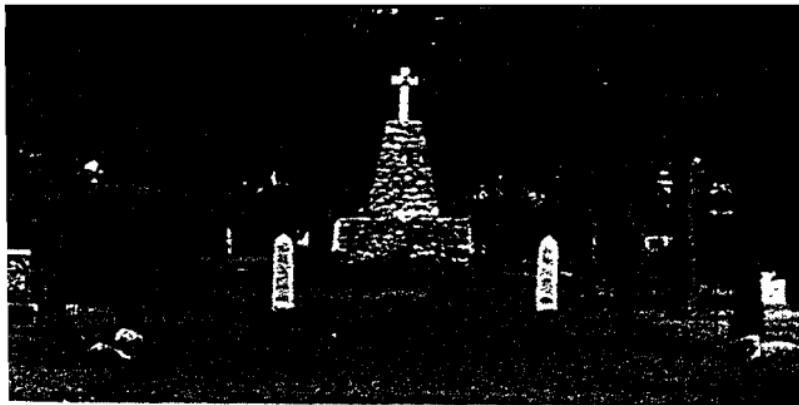
The Cairn was constructed through the co-operation of Great War Veterans, Imperial Veterans, the Army and Navy League and the Military Chapter I.O.D.E. The Cairn is eleven feet in height. It is made of native stone and built in two tiers. On the upper tier is a marble tablet with the words inscribed "Our Glorious Dead." A white marble cross is on the top of the Cairn and completes the memorial.



Preparations

BEFORE the Avenue was opened much work had to be done. The Memorial Committee had first to write several hundred letters to next-of-kin to determine whether a Memorial Avenue would meet with their approval. After receiving some 265 replies in the affirmative, plans were made for a site. Choice of location presented difficulties as the City was growing rapidly. The City Council decided upon the roadway that leads to Woodlawn and the Catholic Cemeteries. As this roadway was bordered with telephone poles the Government of Saskatchewan was requested to have the poles removed. This was gladly done.

Enquiries were sent to Forestry Farms in Canada and the United States to find the tree most suited to our climate. Research work was undertaken at the University of Saskatchewan to find a brass plate which would keep bright through the years. Many other details such as the cost of the tree to the next-of-kin, what information should be recorded in the Register, etc., received attention. Not the least of the details was to find a person who would do the engraving on the brass plates at a moderate cost. Here we would like to pay tribute to the memory of Albert Meek who for twenty years did this engraving so skilfully.



Opening Day

NEARLY two years passed before the Avenue was ready to be opened. The opening of the Avenue on June 23rd, 1923 was a big event. About eight thousand persons were present, among them Brigadier General Ross, General Ormond and Sir Henry Thornton. There were many veterans in uniform, the music of many bands and singing by massed choirs. The Avenue was consecrated and 265 trees dedicated to the memory of the heroic dead by the first Canadian Padre in France, Colonel G. A. Wells, C.M.G.

The years have brought about a transformation. The Soldiers Plot on either side of the Cairn has been enclosed by shrubs. Two dozen blue spruce trees imported from Holland are planted there. The trees and shrubs were bought with money raised through a tag day by the Military Chapter. This Chapter also bought granite pillars which stand at each of the six entrances to the Plot. The headstones which mark the graves are the same as the stones marking graves in Canadian cemeteries in Europe.

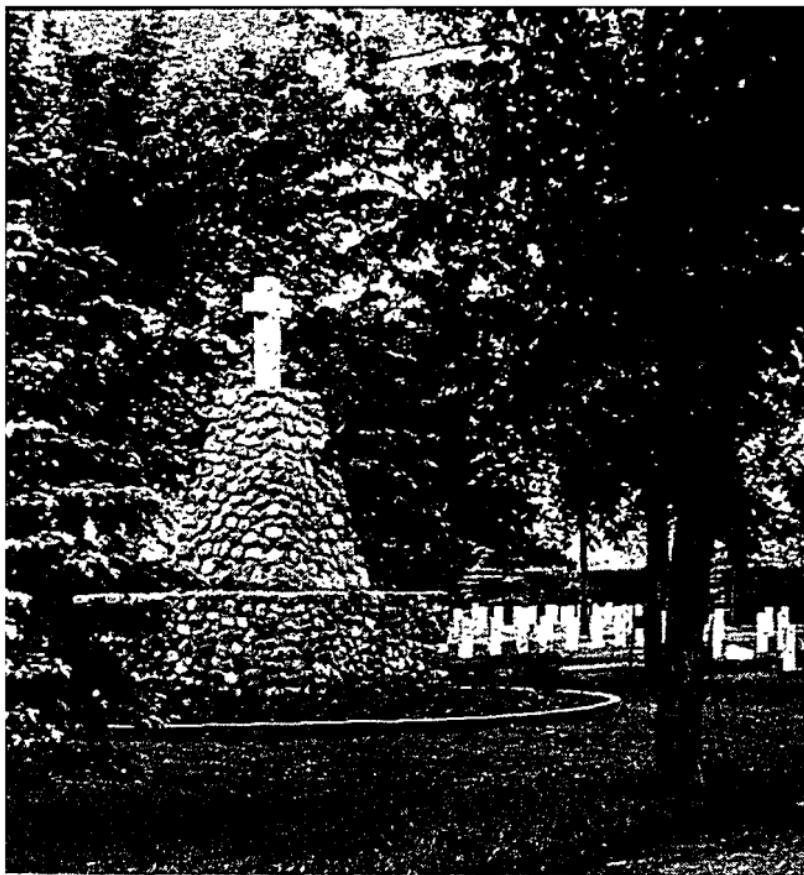


Special Trees

IN the Avenue there are a few trees of particular interest. There is one to Captain Scott, son of Canon Scott of Montreal, Canada's well-loved poet padre, who requested a tree for his son. Canon Scott also composed and sent for the opening day the inscription for the bronze plaque on the tree at the cemetery gate. There is a tree to the memory of Edith Cavell planted at the request of a group in California. There are trees to the memory of boys from Australia, New Zealand and Ireland who lost their lives while training in Saskatoon. Another interesting tree is the one requested by The Royal Marines Old Comrades Association of London, England. It is dedicated to the memory of comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice. His Majesty the King was a member of this Association.

Road of Remembrance

MANY distinguished visitors have made kind remarks about the Avenue. When Lord Byng visited Saskatoon he asked to be shown what he called our "Road of Remembrance." He said it was one of the most remarkable projects he had seen. We appreciate the following quotation from a letter received by the City Council from J. Smart, Chief Inspector of National Parks. He wrote: "It is one of the finest memorials I have seen erected to the memory of fallen service men. The whole scheme has been excellently laid out and is certainly a credit to those who sponsored it."



The Cairn

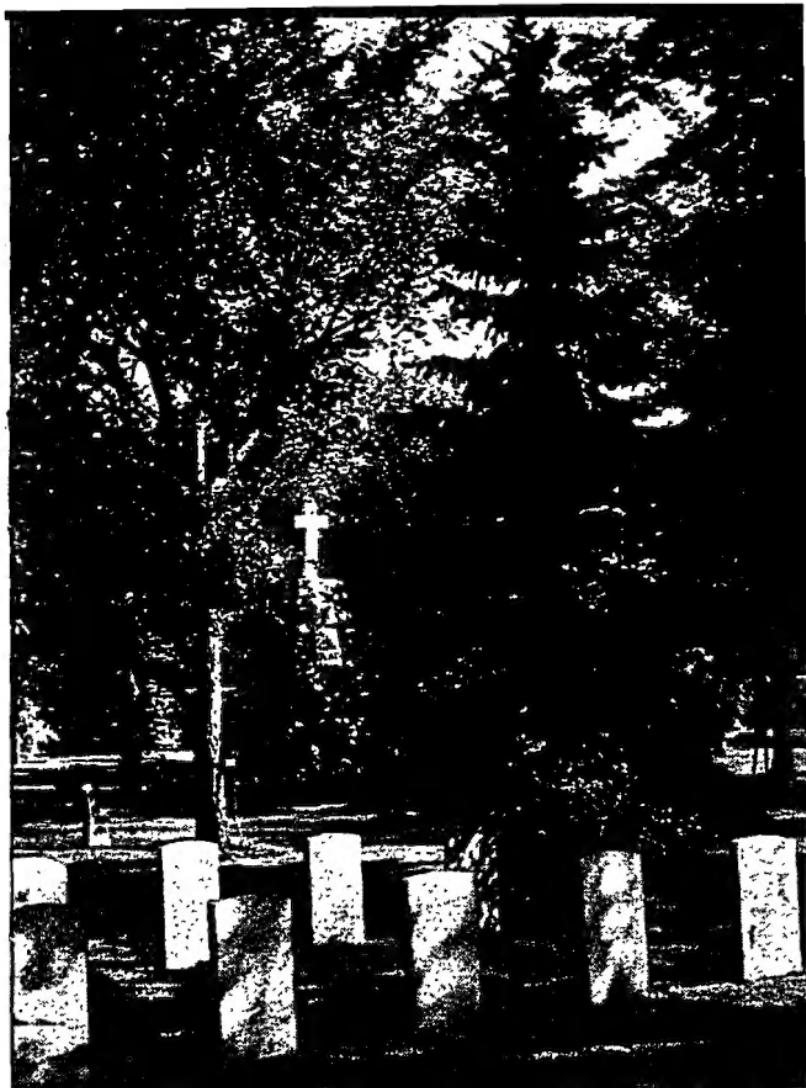
*This Cairn is eleven feet high and is
made of native stone. The cross
on top is of white marble.*

Perpetual Care

THROUGH the years the Saskatoon City Council has given the kindest co-operation. They plant new Avenues as required and from these the next-of-kin choose their trees. For each tree the City gives a certificate of perpetual care. While the City provides the tree and the next-of-kin pay the actual cost of the engraved plate and guard, other expenses such as flags for Decoration Day, new posts for marking the avenues, etc., are taken care of by the Military Chapter through the Memorial Avenue Committee. The Avenue is maintained by the Saskatoon Parks Board.

The Memorial Continues

THE building of the Memorial continues from year to year and the work of the Committee is to consider applications of those wishing trees. The Committee also keeps the records in the City Hall and attends to many other details involved in the general supervision of the growth and needs of the Avenue. Through the full thirty years this Committee has been convened by Mrs. A. H. Hanson. She was the originator of the Avenue and through all the years has given to it unstintingly of her time and money. Because of her never failing enthusiasm and her devotion to the idea that it is the *individual* soldier who should be remembered we now have this unique Memorial of which Military Chapter members are so justly proud.



Soldiers Plot

Page Nine



The Unbroken Line

We who have trod the borderlands of death,
Where courage high walks hand in hand with fear,
Shall we not hearken what the spirit saith,
"All ye were brothers there, be brothers here?"

We who have struggled through the baffling night,
Where men were men and every man divine,
While round us brave hearts perished for the right
By chaliced shell-holes stained with life's rich wine.

Let us not lose the exalted love which came
From the comradeship with danger and the joy
Of strong souls kindled into living flame
By one supreme desire, one high employ.

Let us draw closer in these narrower years,
Before us still the eternal visions spread;
We who outmastered death and all its fears
Are one great army still, living and dead.

—Canon Scott.

Gift of Offert par
Imperial Order of the
Daughters of the
Empire.
Saskatoon, Sask.